

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2005

Contact: Phil Frame
Office of Public Affairs
586-469-5125
phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov

MACOMB COUNTY LEADS THE STATE IN AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – For the 24th consecutive year, Macomb County has netted the most National Association of Counties (NACo) “Achievement Awards” in the state of Michigan. The awards are presented to county government programs that demonstrate exemplary management and innovative service delivery at maximum cost efficiency.

“We are thrilled to hold the top place in the state of Michigan again this year,” said Nancy White, chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. “As commissioners, it is important to ensure that county tax dollars are spent in a responsible, responsive and effective manner. These awards signify our commitment to serving the residents of Macomb County and offer important recognition for our employees who work very hard to provide top-notch services.”

Macomb County received a total of 14 awards for various programs, which will be entered into a national database that details successful programs for other counties to emulate.

Several of the programs offer those in trouble with the law a chance to address the

– more –

problems that lead to criminal activities as an alternative to jail time. These awards include:

- “Juvenile Dual Diagnosis Court,” awarded to Macomb County Community Mental Health and the Juvenile Court for procedures that channel non-violent youth offenders with both mental health issues and substance addiction into rehabilitative programs.
- “Felony Drug Court,” awarded to Macomb County Circuit Court for a program that offers an intensive drug treatment program and supervision for adult probation violators and non-violent convicted felons.
- “Dual Diagnosis Court,” awarded to Macomb County Community Corrections for a program that identifies non-violent offenders with co-occurring mental health issues and substance abuse and links them to needed services.

The following Macomb County Health Department programs received awards:

- “Health Kids, Healthy Hearts,” a four-part, in-school program for 4th graders that promotes healthy habits.
- “Fluorescent Tube Collection,” a program to collect and properly dispose of mercury containing fluorescent light bulbs.
- “Waste Oil Filter Reclamation,” was awarded for their efforts to protect the environment by reducing the amount of waste oil that makes it to the landfill.

Other programs to receive awards include:

- “Reaching Beyond the Shadows,” a Senior Citizens Services program designed to help law enforcement and emergency medical technicians recognize and effectively handle incidents involving adults with dementia related illnesses.

- “Arab American & Chaldean Anti-Stigma Project,” a public education program developed and implemented by Macomb County Community Mental Health that targets this specific audience with information about mental health treatment.
- “Wellness is a 52-Week Commitment,” a program of the Macomb County Department of Risk Management and Safety was awarded for its efforts to promote worksite wellness activities for county employees.
- “Countywide Master Plan for Trails,” a Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development program that identified ways in which all 27 municipalities in the county could develop a linked network of hiking/biking trails.
- “Meeting the Challenge Together: A Strategic Approach,” a program of the Macomb County Community Services Agency which seeks to embrace the changing needs of the county through streamlining intake procedures, expanding programs and updating training provided to staff and volunteers.
- The County Clerk/Register of Deeds won a total of three awards for “SMART Bus Rides for Jurors,” which provides public transportation for jurors without reliable vehicles, and those who wish to avoid driving or searching for a parking spot. Also awarded was “Circuit Court Case Index on the Internet” and “Bar Coding Potential Jurors.”

A formal awards presentation, sponsored by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners will be held in the fall.

###